

REMARKS

At the outset, applicants thank Examiner Howard for her time and consideration in discussing the application with the undersigned on February 1, 2006.

During the telephone conversation, applicants noted that while the Official Action issued on November 4, 2005 stated that claims 19-24 were inadvertently omitted in a previous Official Action, the claims were not omitted but actually allowed in the previous Official Action (see Official Action mailed on October 4, 2004, bottom of page 3). As a result, applicants note that claims 19-24 should not have been included in the rejections but indicated as allowed. Applicants note with appreciation that Examiner Howard indicated during the conversation that this was the case and that claims 19-24 would be held allowable if an amendment was submitted with these claims as the pending claims.

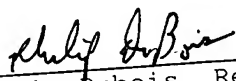
Accordingly, claims 19-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 19-24 have been amended so that the claims recite the preferred article of --A-- or --The-- under United States patent practice. Claims 1-18 and 25-30 have been cancelled.

As a result, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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